

Several news outlets reported on the Committee's [expanding probe](#) into the recall of pharmaceuticals produced by Johnson & Johnson subsidiary McNeil Pharmaceuticals.

Drew Armstrong at Bloomberg [highlighted the developments](#) :

U.S. lawmakers demanded records from two contractors they say were hired by Johnson & Johnson to buy back defective Motrin tablets from stores in a “phantom recall” that is part of an expanding investigation into drug manufacturing at J&J.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee sent letters requesting information related to the 2008 Motrin incident to the chief executive officers of WIS International, a closely held San Diego-based merchandise consultant, and Inmar Inc., which is based in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

“Rather than doing the right thing and announcing a recall, we have learned that the drug company hired contractors to basically sneak into stores to purchase the products as if they were legitimate customers,” Representative Edolphus Towns, a New York Democrat and the committee chairman, said yesterday in a statement. Towns termed the Motrin incident a “phantom recall,” at a May 27 hearing that revealed unnamed contractors hired by J&J removed the over-the-counter pain medicine from stores at gasoline service stations.

The committee began investigating quality-control deficiencies at J&J after the world’s largest maker of health- care products recalled more than 40 children’s medicines on April 30.

NPR's [Health Blog "Shots" reported](#) on the Committee's inquiry into Pediacare:

The House committee that's probing Johnson & Johnson massive recall of kids' medicines has widened its inquiry to cover drugs sold by another company.

A few days ago, Blacksmith Brands said it was undertaking a "precautionary" recall of four varieties of liquid allergy and cold remedies sold under the PediaCare label.

The medicines are made for Blacksmith by Johnson & Johnson at the Fort Washinton, Pa., that is now shut after a slew of quality problems were documented during an April inspection by the Food and Drug Administration.

Chairman Edolphus Towns (D-NY) of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform fired off a letter to the CEO of Blacksmith Brands asking what exactly is the problem that led the company to yank the products.

This week, Chairman Towns [questioned the circumstances surrounding the recall of Pediacare](#) and sent a letter to the CEO of Blacksmith Brands outlining his concerns.